

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-12

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R 021047Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2064

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 5388

FOR AMBASSADOR HELMS FROM AMBASSADOR KINTNER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TH

SUBJECT: NEW THAI AMBASSADOR TO IRAN

1. MAJOR GENERAL BUNRIT THANTRANON, THAI AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO IRAN, WILL DEPART THAILAND SOON TO TAKE UP HIS NEW POST. BUNRIT HAS BEEN CHIEF OF THE THAI/U.S. COORDINATING COMMITTEE, ROYAL THAI ARMY (RTA), SINCE 1968. HE HAS BEEN FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE WITH THIS MISSION, AND I RECOMMEND THAT YOU SEEK HIM OUT.

2. BUNRIT WAS BORN 23 FEBRUARY 1924 IN BANGKOK. HE GRADUATED FROM THE ROYAL THAI MILITARY ACADEMY IN 1942. HE ATTENDED THE U.S. ARMY INFANTRY SCHOOL, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA IN 1956. SIGNIFICANT PAST ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE CHIEF OF THE INTELLIGENCE DIVISION, RTA DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE, 1958-59; RTA MILITARY ATTACHE TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, 1959-1962; RTA MILITARY ATTACHE TO THE U.S., 1964-1968. BUNRIT IS FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD THE U.S. AND U.S. POLICY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE IS FRIENDLY WITH AMERICANS, BUT ALSO CAUTIOUS AND CUNNING IN OFFICIAL DEALINGS. BUNRIT IS MARRIED AND HAS THREE CHILDREN, TWO OF WHOM HAVE STUDIED AT U.S. COLLEGES. A LESS PHONETIC BUT COMMONLY USED SPELLING OF HIS NAME IS BULRIT DARDARANANDA.

3. DAO BANGKOK IS PREPARING A FULL BIOGRAPHIC REPORT ON BUNRIT, WHICH DAO WILL SEND TO TEHRAN LATER THIS MONTH.

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KINTNER

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